

b) detecting the labeled ligand in the human, wherein abnormal presence of the labeled ligand indicates overexpression of VEGF at a site distal from the primary tumor and further indicates the presence of metastasis in the human.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the overexpression of VEGF is determined using an anti-VEGF antibody.

B<sub>1</sub> 22. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the overexpression of VEGF is determined using a VEGF receptor fusion protein or VEGF receptor conjugated protein.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the presence of the ligand is detected using a method entailing X-ray, CAT-scan or MRI.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising detecting co-expression with VEGF of tyrosine kinase receptors involved in angiogenesis.

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Please add the following claims:

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26. ~~(New)~~ The method of claim 20, wherein the site distal from a primary tumor is a body fluid.

B<sub>2</sub>  
SVB  
C<sub>2</sub> 27. ~~(New)~~ The method of claim 25, wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, urine, lymph and cerebrospinal fluid.

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#### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

#### ***I. Status of the Claims***

Claims 20-27 are pending upon the entry of the foregoing amendment. Claims 20-23 have been amended to define the claimed invention more clearly and distinctively. Claim 24 has been amended to recite "co-expression" instead of "the co-localization." Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, for